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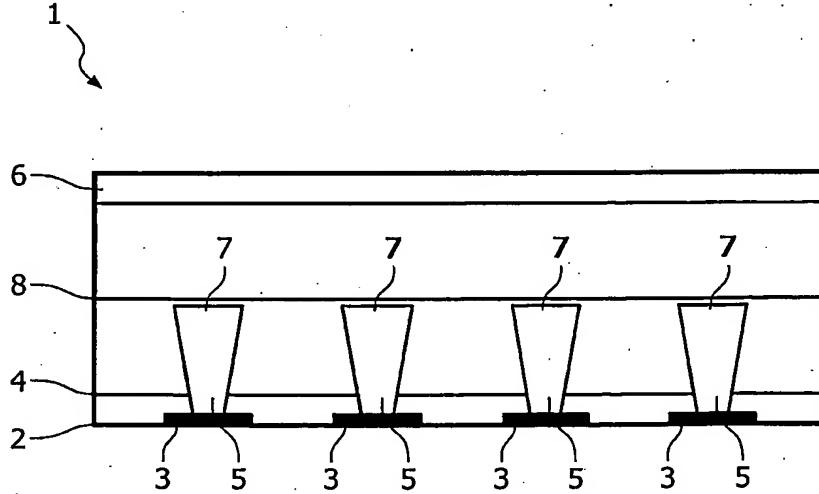
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(54) Title: LUMINOUS BODY



(57) Abstract: A luminous body is described, in particular in the form of a planar illumination device for general lighting or for backlighting of displays, wherein the luminous body comprises a plurality of light sources arranged in a housing (1) such as, for example, LED elements (3, 5). The luminous body is remarkable in that the light of the light sources is radiated at least substantially in a direction parallel to a light emission surface (6) of the housing (1), while the inner walls of the housing (1) reflect the light at least partly. Not only does this render it possible to achieve a very homogeneous light distribution on the light emission surface (6) also in the case of a small constructional height of the luminous body, but the fact that no optical waveguide plate is required in the housing (1) also provides advantages in the form of a simple manufacture and low cost.

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